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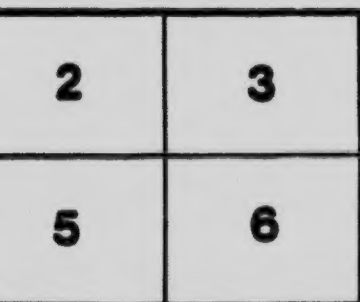
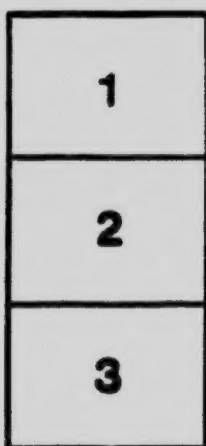
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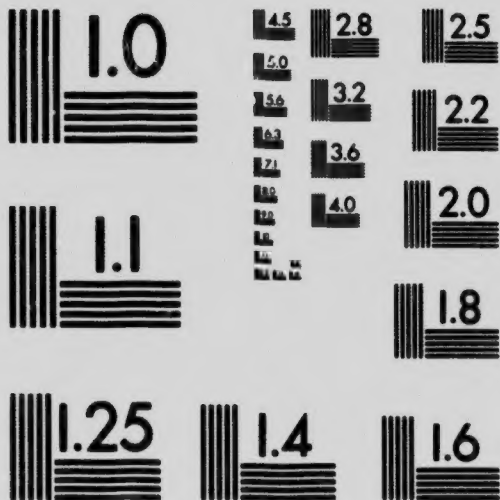
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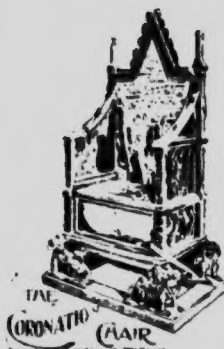
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THE Coronation Chair



OF GREAT BRITAIN

And some other Historic Chairs of interest to all subjects of the British Empire, and especially to Canadians.

These chairs, where originals exist, are perfect reproductions.

The Coronation Chair is an exact replica of the original in the Abbey Church of Westminster, London, England.

These chairs were made for and are the property of the exhibitor,

J. Ross Robertson, of Toronto, Canada.

They are shown in the Art Building of the Canadian National Exhibition, at Toronto August 29th—September 10th, 1904.

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Mar 6, 1973

I.
THE CORONATION CHAIR.

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X. *
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CHAIR.*

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THE GUILD CHAIR.*

* These chairs, owing to want of space, are shown in the Chas. Rogers & Sons, Company exhibit in the Manufacturers' Building.

INTRODUCTION.

The chairs shown in the Exhibit, in the Art Building of the Canadian National Exhibition, held at Toronto, August 29th to September 10th, are reproductions of a few historical chairs connected with the history of Great Britain and Canada. Where there are originals, as in the case of the Coronation Chair, the reproduction is exact in every detail, and where no original exists, the chairs are designed after chairs of the period, and are made out of the actual wood used in the erection of the buildings designated, all of which buildings have passed out of existence. The chairs have all an interest, particularly to Canadians, as the wood is historic, and that each chair is in one way and another a link in the past of Canadian history.

It will interest the visitor to know something of the history surrounding these exhibits, and, therefore, the following notes have been prepared, giving further details of the persons in history who are identified with this attempt to perpetuate in permanent form old-time memories of the long, long ago in Britain and in Canada.

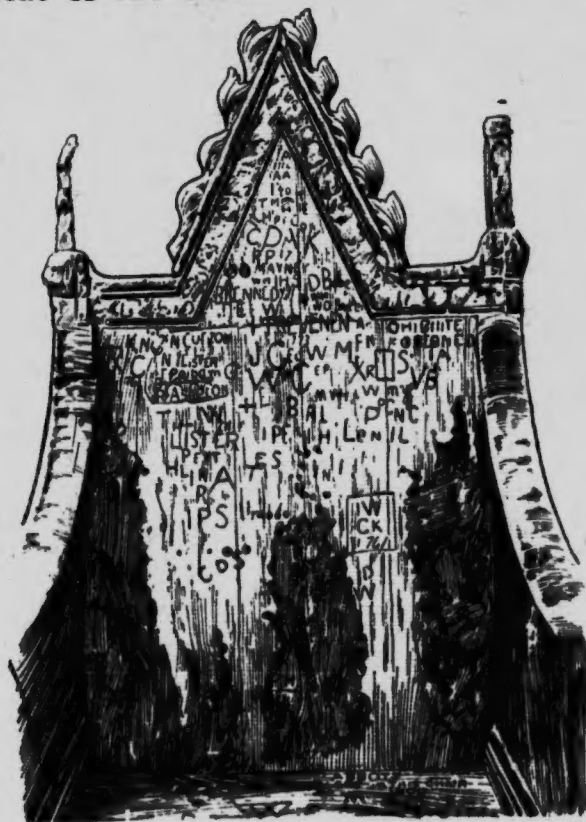


THE CORONATION CHAIR.

THE CORONATION CHAIR.

The Coronation Chair shown is an exact reproduction of the chair made by order of King Edward I., when in 1297 he brought the regalia of Scotland and the Stone of Scone to Westminster. In this chair all the sovereigns of England have been crowned since that date. It is defaced with initials cut by the boys of Westminster School, some hundreds of years

ago, on the centre panel and on the seat of the chair.



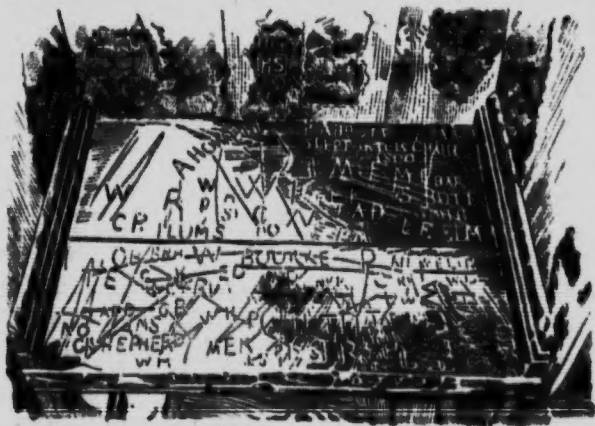
**DEFACEMENTS ON THE FRONT PANEL OF THE
BACK OF THE CHAIR MADE BY STUDENTS.**

The decorations, few of which can now be seen, were made by Master Walter, one of the artists of the Painted Chamber in Westminster Palace, by order of Edward I., in the year 1300. The chair is 6 feet 7 inches in height, 2 feet deep, the seat 2 feet 6 inches wide. The reproduction shown is made of English oak 600 years old.

The stone shown under the seat is a reproduction of the famous "Stone of Destiny," the Stone of

Scone. Tradition identifies it as the stone upon which Jacob rested his head at Bethel, and that it found its way to Ireland 700 B.C., and in 850 A.D. to Scotland.

But all these statements as to the origin of the stone and its travels are absolutely mythical. There is no doubt that Skene, the historian, in his monograph (1869), in which he discusses all the legends about the stone and its origin, is correct in his opinion that the stone is Scottish sandstone, and was originally quarried from the rocks near Scone, in Scotland. Geologists hold this view. It appears to have been used for the seat of the crowning of Scottish Kings, and all of them from 850 A.D. to John Balliol were crowned on this stone. When Edward I. over-ran Scotland he seized this precious relic and took it to England, where it was placed in Westminster Abbey (1297), the Scots subsequently making repeated efforts to reclaim it. Edward



DEFACEMENTS ON THE SEAT OF THE CHAIR.

had "a magnificent oaken chair"—the one now being shown in the reproduction. It is this chair, says the guide to the Abbey, whose battered remains we see before us. Upon this chair and stone, which are covered with a cloth of gold, and moved into the Sacrarium at coronation, the sovereigns of England have ever since been crowned. The only occasion upon which it has been taken out of the Abbey was when Oliver Cromwell was installed in it as Lord Protector in Westminster Hall.

The reproduction of this chair is so exact that if placed beside the original it would be impossible to tell it from the genuine chair.

THE MASONIC CHAIR.

On the 24th June, 1717, the festival of St. John the Baptist, the brethren of four of the old Masonic Lodges of England, met at the "Goose and Grid-iron Ale House," in London Yard, on the north side of St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and formed the original Grand Lodge of England. The meeting was in the first floor room of this celebrated Ale House, which had been destroyed by the great fire of 1666 and rebuilt in 1686. Mr. Robertson, knowing the history of the building and its Masonic connection, had a chair made out of the oak joists which supported the floor of the room where the Masons met to form the first Grand Lodge. The members of this Grand Lodge of England gathered at their meeting in 1717 were men of small means. Probably a few hundred

pounds would cover the united wealth of the less than a dozen brethren assembled, but their work of organiza-



tion has had great results, for the Grand Lodge of England, the mother Grand Lodge of the world, gives away every year to its Schools for Girls and Boys, and in gifts to poor and indigent Masons, a sum that averages about \$365,000 yearly, or about \$1,000

a day, a magnificent testimony to the great work done by Masonry during the past two centuries.

In this chair all the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Canada are installed when that body meets in Toronto.

THE CANADA COMPANY CHAIR.

The second brick building in York (Toronto) was erected in 1807, when



Lawrence Quetton St. George reared a brick building on the north-east corner of King and Frederick streets, Toronto. It was demolished in 1902 to make room for the Adams Bros. factory. This chair is made out of the pine wood, for there was no oak in the building, of the room which was occupied at a later period (about 1830) by the Commissioners of the Canada Company during their occupancy of the building. The first brick buildings in York (Toronto) were the Parliament Buildings on Front street east (Palace), at the foot of Berkeley street, on the site of the Gas Company's buildings. This building on King street was the second brick, and Bishop Strachan's residence on Front street west, opposite the Union Station—known as the Palace—was the third.

THE PALESTINE CHAIR.

In the winter of 1901 Mr. Robertson visited Palestine, and as a memorial of his visit obtained some excellent specimens of olive wood from the Mount of Olives, near the Garden of Gethsemane. This wood was brought to Canada, and the chair designed after the style of that used by the Grand First Principal, the chief officer of the Royal Arch Masons, whose jewel of office is a crown irradiated between the legs of a pair of compasses, resting upon a triple triangle. A carving of the jewel is shown in the centre of the chair rail, having

branches of olives along the the centre panels.

The design of the chair is Masonic

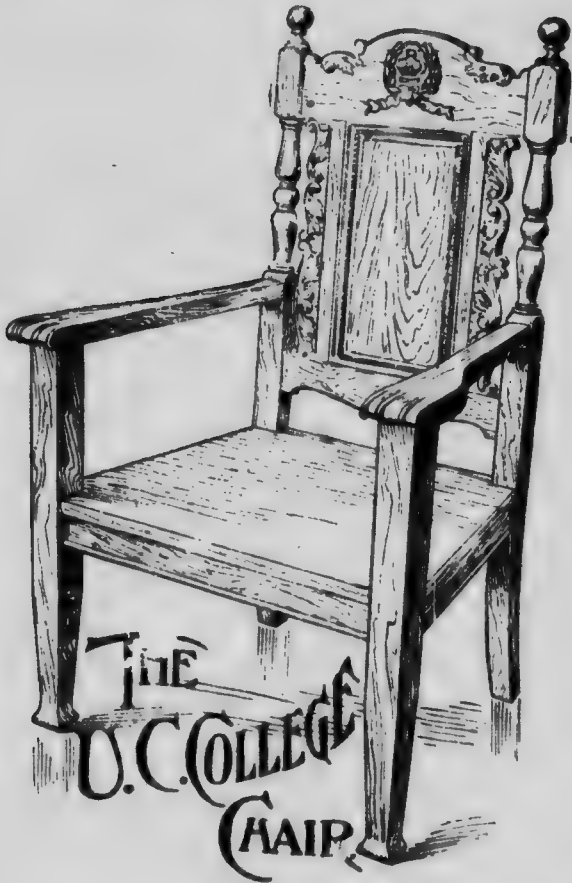


from the connection of Royal Arch Masonry with Eastern lore and Biblical history.

UPPER CANADA COLLEGE CHAIR.

This chair was made in 1901 out of a small cross joist of oak from the room of the late Christopher Thomp-

son, the writing master in old Upper Canada College Building, King street west, Toronto. His room from 1850-



60 was at the north-west corner of the ground floor, and the oak was taken from the floor of the room over the spot where Mr. Robertson sat as a pupil fifty-four years ago. The design is of a chair of the period, and the arms of the College are shown in the chair rail above the centre panel.

ADMIRAL NELSON'S CHAIR.

The Foudroyant was a flagship of Admiral Nelson. This ship was built at Plymouth in 1789. Nelson was particularly interested in her construction, for he had designed her as



his flagship. But in 1797 it was found impossible to complete the ship in time, and Nelson had to take the "Vanguard."

The Foudroyant was launched in 1798. She was the ship of the century, and built of English and African oak, and hard pine from South Carolina, and copper of such fineness that it contained a large percentage of silver. Two hundred English oaks, a perfect forest, were used in her construction. Her dimensions were:—Length 183 feet, breadth 50 feet, and tonnage 2,061, with a crew of 600.

For nearly ninety-four years she kept the flag of Britain flying. She was put into commission June, 1798, by Sir Thomas Bayard, and was in many actions with the French fleet up to 1799, when she joined Lord Keith's squadron at Cadiz, and was despatched with three other ships to reinforce Lord Nelson at Palermo, in Sicily.

On June 7th, 1799, Nelson was made Rear Admiral of the Port, and, true to his admiration for the Foudroyant, on the following day transferred his flag from the Vanguard to the Foudroyant.

This man-of-war was in a number of actions under Nelson, and in many after he left her. His connection with her ceased on the 20th of June, 1800, at Leghorn, when he left for England by the overland route.

The ship, which had been out of service for many years, was wrecked in 1897 at Blackpool, and was purchased by a Manchester firm, which made interesting relics of this one of the old wooden walls of England.

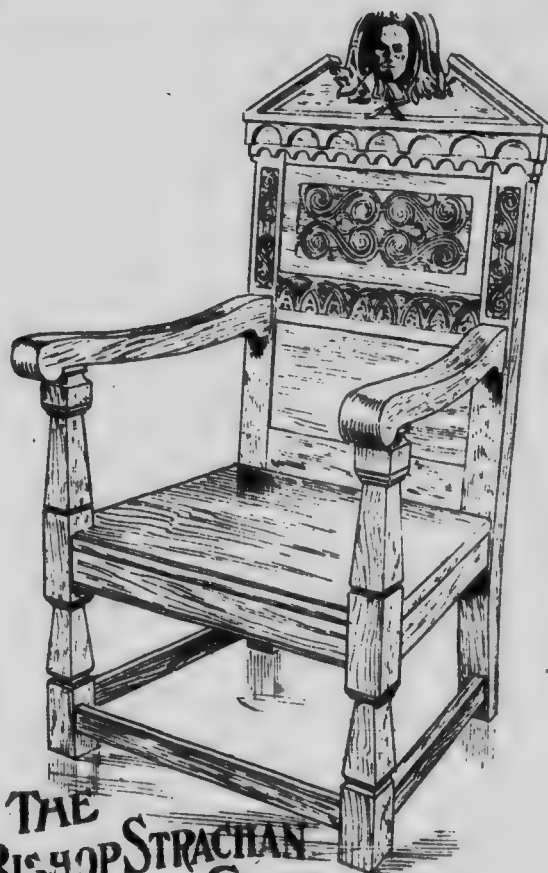
The picture of the Foudroyant on the centre panel of the chair is in beaten copper, with which the ship was sheathed.

The cabin of the yacht Meteor,

owned by the Emperor of Germany, is fitted up with a dressing and writing table made of oak and copper from this ship, and the metal work of the cabin, all silver-plated, is from the copper sheathing of Nelson's favourite flagship.

THE BISHOP'S CHAIR.

Rev. Dr. John Strachan was the first Anglican Bishop of the See of



THE
BISHOP STRACHAN
CHAIR

Toronto. His residence was at 130 Front street west, opposite the

Union Station, and was known as the Bishop's Palace. It was erected in 1818, and was the third brick house erected in York (Toronto), the first being the Parliament Buildings, and the second the St. George, or Canada Company, Building on the north-east corner of King and Frederick streets.

This chair is made out of an excellent piece of Canadian oak, which formed the step or threshold of the main doorway of the residence. The carving of the face of the Bishop is considered a fine piece of work. It was done by one of the artists of the Rogers Son's Company.

THE CITY HALL CHAIR.

The City Hall, Toronto, which was erected in 1844, and occupied until 1899, was demolished in 1901, stood on the site of the new St. Lawrence Market, on the south side of Front street. It preceded the present buildings on Queen, at the head of Bay street. This chair is made from pieces of oak taken from the late head pieces of doors in different parts of the building. These were the only pieces of oak in the building.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAIR.

This chair is made from pieces of walnut from the balusters, newels and hand-rail of the principal staircase

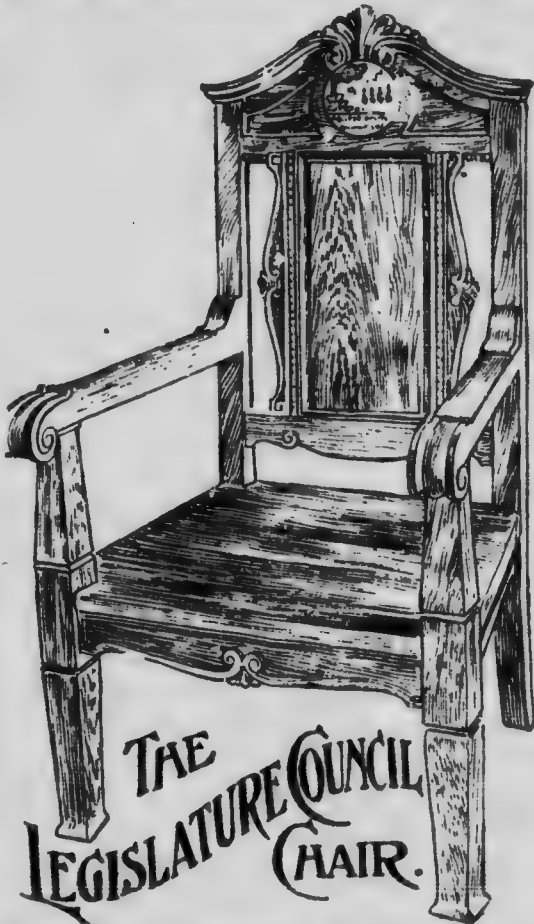


in the hall of the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada 1832-41, United Provinces of Canada

1841-59, and Legislature of Ontario 1869-92, in the old Parliament Buildings, Front street west, Toronto.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CHAIR.

This chair is made from an oak joist, which supported the Speaker's dais in the Legislative Council Cham-



ber of Upper Canada, on the west side of the centre building of the old Parliament Buildings, Front street, To-

ronto, now the site of the Grand Trunk freight sheds.

The old Parliament Buildings were erected in 1829-32, and were first used in the latter year by the Legislature of Upper Canada, from 1841 by the Legislature of the United Provinces, and again in 1849-51 and 1855-59. From 1867-92 they were occupied by the Legislature of Ontario, until the opening in the latter year of the present buildings in the Queen's Park. The old buildings were demolished in 1902-3. The arms of Lower Canada are shown on the centre of the chair rail, above the panel.

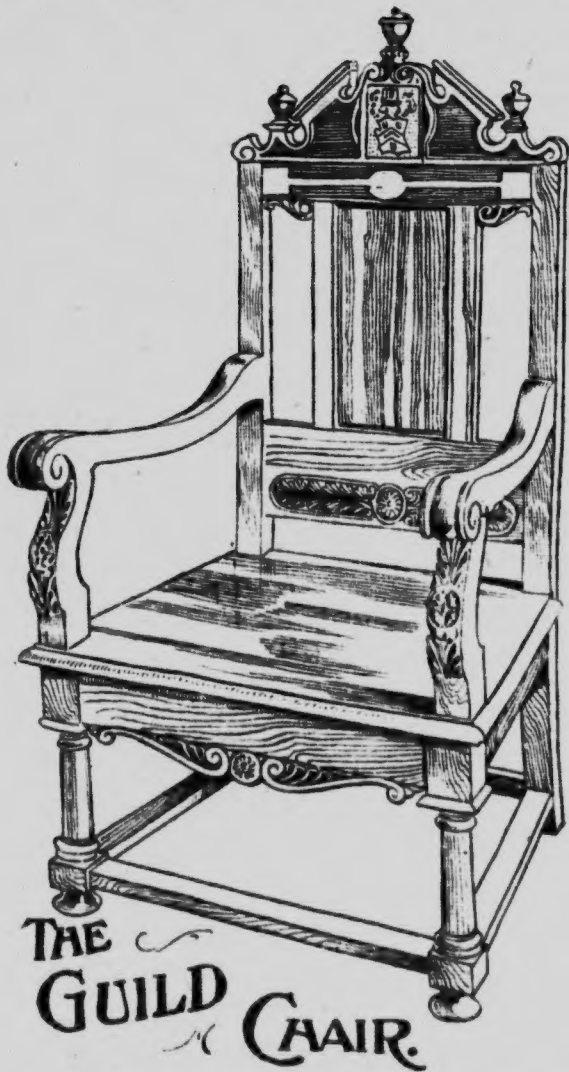
THE CHAIR OF THE ENGLISH GUILDS.

The Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London, England, has the peculiar distinction above all other guilds, of being the one which is the connecting link in the chain of evidence which proves that the modern social cult known as the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, is lineally descended from the old fraternity of Masons which flourished in the early days of Masonic architecture, known by the inappropriate title of gothic.

Old documents show that in 1646 Elias Ashmole, the antiquarian, was made a Freemason at Warrington, near Liverpool, in a lodge that was not in any way connected with the building trade, and that in 1682, thirty-six years later, he attended a meeting of a lodge in the Mason's Hall, Basinghall street, London, at which the Master of the Masons Company, his

Warden, and several members of the court were present.

These facts show the connection between operative and speculative Masonry, demonstrating that the specula-



tive lodges that meet to-day, in Britain, in Canada and in the United

States, are the lineal descendants of the operative lodges or societies of centuries ago. The records of the Worshipful Company of Masons are extant from 1620. The Mason's Hall was in the lane between Basinghall street and Coleman street, known as Hazlewood Abbey, now called Mason's avenue. Its erection dates from 1467, and it was destroyed in the great fire of 1666. In 1668-9 the Hall was rebuilt and occupied by the Company until 1865, when the Hall was sold, and meetings held in other premises. While alterations were being made on the Hall in Mason's avenue, Mr. Robertson obtained a fine piece of English oak that had been taken from part of the interior of the building, and had it fashioned into a chair, which is shown with a carving of the original arms of the Company granted by the Crown in 1472, in the reign of Edward IV. (1461-83).

